

## On the street

### Canada: America's favourite child

By Liam Kavanagh-Bradette

Canadians are feeling the love from south of the border.

A Gallup survey released Feb 16 shows that the average American has a more favorable view of Canada since this time last year.

We are now sitting at a 96 per cent approval rating, the highest ranking any country has ever been rated in the 20 years that Gallup has been conducting these surveys.

The Toronto Star, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and Hamilton Spectator have all run the same Canadian

Press story, written by Lee-Anne Goodman, which is full of pride and bluster at being America's favourite.

Why do we act like being liked by the U.S. is some lofty goal? That earning the approval and a metaphysical pat on the head by the U.S. is something that should be trumpeted by the Canadian media?

I just spent the weekend in New York. They're sure nice and had nothing negative to say about us, but neither did they have anything particularly smart or deep to say. I guess I should have expected all this crowing, but it's still depressing how eager we are as a nation to earn our neighbour's approval.

Photojournalism student Liam

Kavanagh-

Bradette visited

New York City on

the weekend and

asked people:

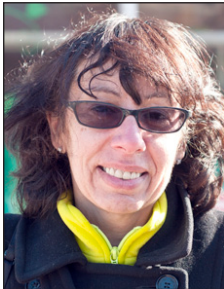
**What does Canada mean to you?**



**Dionysus Potamoskulos**, "I like Canadian bacon, but I heard it's not what we have here, what's peameal?"



**René Berkowitz**, "I loved it, the food wasn't so good. The croissants were awful, they were like hockey pucks."



**Anastasia Stekes**, "My husband's from Flin Flon, Manitoba. I want to move there."



**Ricky Sarkar**, "The only thing I know about Canada is they've got some really nice waterfalls."

## Editorial

### Isn't pedophilia more damaging than smoking pot?

Apparently the Tories don't want anything to be safe in Canada, not marijuana and not children either.

According to the backgrounder for the Safe Streets and Communities Act, the short title for the Omnibus Crime Bill, posted on the Canadian Department of Justice website, someone who is caught growing 201 pot plants in a rental unit would receive a longer mandatory sentence than someone who rapes a toddler or forces a five-year-old to have sex with an animal.

Wow, can that even be digested?

Christina Barriage, a Loyalist College community and justice services program student, weighed in. "Pedophilia does more long-term damage to our society than people smoking pot ever will."

It would seem that the Tory government wants to spend billions of dollars a year on people who like to smoke dope, listen to music and eat brownies.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, while on the campaign trail in April, repeatedly promised to get tough on sexual offences against children.

So how is it that the penalties for some pot-growing offences could exceed those of sexual crimes against children?

In his Speech from the Throne, at the opening of the 41<sup>st</sup> Parliament, David Johnston, the Governor General of Canada, included the following comments:

"Our government will move quickly to reintroduce comprehensive law-and-order legislation to combat crime and terrorism. These measures will protect children from sex offenders."

So, flash forward to Feb. 17, 2012. Riding on the coattails of The Protecting Children from Sexual Predators Act, the Omnibus Bill has been pushed through all readings of the house and now sits with the Commons Justice Committee, which consists primarily of Conservative members.

Irene Mathyssen, Member of Parliament for London-Fanshawe, asked why there was only three hours of debate allotted to a third reading of the bill. She also wondered why the government refused to send the section of the bill that deals with child sexual assault separately, so that it might have speedy passage.

The Safe Streets and Communities Act's aim, (the short title for Bill C-10), as Justice Minister Rob Nicholson described during debate at second reading, is to "..... target sexual offences against children and serious drug offences, as well as prevent the use of conditional sentences for serious violent and property crimes; increase offender accountability, eliminate pardons for serious crimes and strengthen the international transfer of offenders regime; wbetter protect Canadians from violent young offenders....."

Although the disparity between the minimum sentencing requirements of Bill C-10 are in the forefront, let's be clear that these are actually two completely different issues before us.

According to the Canadian Addiction Survey, 13.9 per cent of Canadians have used cannabis in the past year.

The National Clearing House on Family Violence states that one in every three women and one in every six men will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18.

Both of these facts are from verifiable sources, but only one of them has the ability to turn your stomach, turn the tide on the life of a child and therefore the future of a country.

The degree of both public and political rhetoric on the subject of this bill is multi-faceted. However, the fact remains that the claims made by the prime minister, governor general, and justice minister don't actually match the contents of the bill that has been pushed through.

So what's the bottom line? First, get tough on pedophiles.

Second, putting marijuana offenders in jail will do nothing for the problem, will cost a lot of money, and may even make things worse.

Sherry Tompkins

### Wi-Fi gets attention as new cancer cause

It seems as soon as people catch onto a craze, it's found to cause cancer.

Smoking. A social activity that has been around for hundreds of years. Don't light up anymore, it causes cancer.

Lying on the beach is the favourite pastime of summer vacationers, but slap on that sunscreen and grab that hat and umbrella because too much sun exposure causes cancer.

As sun exposure is a factor for skin cancer, people switched to indoor tanning to achieve their glow. Nope, that causes cancer too.

And now Wi-Fi has been added to the long, growing list of cancer-causing activities.

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, or OECTA, is urging schools to stop putting Wi-Fi in their buildings, saying that more research needs to be done on the effects of Wi-Fi on children before installation.

Last May, the World Health Organization called for more research to be conducted on the potential dangers of Wi-Fi, as radiation from any wireless device could be cancer-causing.

Because children's brains are smaller than adults, the radiation affects them more. A child's brain also contains more water, which allows electromagnetic radiation to be conducted faster and stronger.

Some parents of children attending schools with Wi-Fi in Ontario claim their children are suffering from symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, vertigo, racing heart, memory loss and skin rash.

OECTA brought to public attention that no long-term studies have been conducted on the health impacts of Wi-Fi on children and that "no form of radiation can be deemed 'safe' as it depends on the constitution of the individual exposed."

Cellphones were added to the list of potential cancer-causing devices a couple years ago, which have up to 2.4 ghz frequency. Wi-Fi can have up to 6 ghz frequency. Now many cells are made to be Wi-Fi capable as well.

The Wi-Fi craze is sweeping the nation with no end in site. People are able to get a wireless signal on buses, trains, restaurants, stores and even while in parks.

Can Wi-Fi now be added to the growing list of cancer-causing activities that people know about but seem to ignore? What has to happen for people to seek a healthy life and avoid known carcinogens?

Or will we all continue to suffer from the 'superman' syndrome, and believe we are invincible until proven otherwise?

Rebecca Rempel



## Opinion

### What are these women thinking?

*Female fans tweet disturbing comments with expressions of love towards Chris Brown*

By Kelly Michelle Gagné

"You can punch me in the face, as long as you kiss me afterwards."

Any chance you're still able to hear Chris Brown's name without cringing?

Were you one of the many who was watching the 54<sup>th</sup> annual Grammy awards last week? Maybe you weren't watching, but you definitely were up-to-date with updates every two minutes thanks to Twitter and Facebook.

I know the feeling. My Twitter feed was an explosion of tweets about who wore what best, the recent and tragic death of Whitney Houston, who-should-have-won-what Grammy, and then came the Chris Brown tweets, which trended for a week.

Talk about an explosion of controversy right after he accepted his Grammy. Female fans

were expressing their love for Chris by tweeting things such as:

"Everyone shut up about Chris Brown being a woman beater...Shiiiiittt he can beat me up all night if he wants." @\_annieggregg, or "Dude, Chris brown can punch me in the face as much as he wants to, just as long as he kisses it (-" @ KaylaMarieWatts.

I'm sure victims of assault everywhere approve of this kind of talk. Nothing says you respect yourself as a woman more than by completely degrading years of the struggle for women's rights in a single tweet.

These female Chris Brown fans really stirred the pot and have had their tweets posted on websites everywhere from "25 extremely upsetting reactions to Chris Brown at the Grammys" to news and magazine articles, and you name it.

But the ultimate question is whether fans and observers can separate the artist from the music. Should they?

Many people have at least some common sense and respect Brown as an artist, but realize he has made mistakes and that he needs to grow up and get help. It's just the brainwashed

girls that the rest of the population is worried about.

It makes you wonder how corrupted girls and women from 13-30 are and how they view themselves. Part of me wants to believe they just don't realize the power of the statements they are making.

My biggest issue right now is the effect those tweets will have on women and even men, on how they view assault and abuse. It makes you wonder what these girls really think of themselves and how they view assault.

At the end of the day, we need to really take into account that celebrities are people as well. Just because they are famous does not mean they are some kind of superhuman.

They still can be capable of good and evil actions and these girls and women need to really find a way to grow up and to stop obsessing over these celebrity icons.

Now aren't we all just excited for the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy Award shows and what they will bring? Get ready, your Twitter and Facebook feeds are going to be hurtin'.

### Students facing 'crunch time' in their lives

*Deadlines result in pushing the limits to get ready for workforce*

By Jessica Corriveau

College students are no strangers to all-nighters.

Sometimes it's because we're making time to see our friends. Sometimes it's because a project just isn't coming together and there's no time left.

Whether it's at home or at school, staying up all night to meet a deadline isn't an uncommon practice during 'crunch time', when every single assignment you have seems to be due the next day.

A recent BBC article revealed that 17 hours

of wakefulness – 7 a.m. to midnight – could lead to a brain functioning as if you'd consumed two glasses of wine or a blood alcohol level of 0.05 percent. The legal limit to operate a vehicle in Ontario is 0.08 percent.

Getting up at 7 a.m. and going to bed at midnight seems pretty reasonable, even conservative, when you factor in a full day in class, then a night of homework, with a part-time job thrown in, and some time for yourself or for friends, so you don't lose it and burn out.

But is pushing it really worth it? Should we be burning the candle at both ends in an effort to learn it all now and get out into the workforce? How much good is this way of life really doing us?

Intensive programs are just that – intensive. New deadlines are coming up every day and

assignments are going to take longer than an hour or two, more than one night in front of a computer. For group assignments, co-ordinating between everyone can be a nightmare. Either way, there's always something else you should be doing and someone else who needs your attention.

Maybe it's a matter of extending the programs, tacking on another year to spread things out.

Maybe it's simply re-evaluating the sheer number of assignments and how much practice we really need before we get the concept. Maybe it's simply a matter of keeping our noses to the grindstone and using our smartphones to stay on top of it all.

Graduating with our sanity is a challenge, but hey, we're preparing to conquer the world, right?

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